

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /075 W

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R 071610Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1473

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY TU GR

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO CLERIDES APRIL 1 SPEECH

REF: NICOSIA 1227

1. SUMMARY. CLERIDES SPEECH DOMINATES PUBLIC DISCUSSION OVER WEEKEND. MAJOR MAKARIOS BACKERS INCLUDING BISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS ATTACK CLERIDES; MOST WEEKLY, RIGHTIST PRESS BACK CLERIDES. ATHENS, NICOSIA KEEP OFFICIAL SILENCE. WE WONDER WHETHER CHANGE

IN ATHENS-NICOSIA LINE IN OFFING, ON EVE RESUMED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRO-MAKARIOS FACTIONS HAVE BROUGHT HEAVY GUNS TO BEAR ON CLERIDES FOR APRIL 1 SPEECH (REF). ASIDE FROM NIGGLING DEBATE ON LONG-TERM STRUGGLE AND BI-ZONALISM, MAIN CRITICISMS ARE THAT SPEECH: BROKE UNITY IN GREEK RANKS, DEPARTED FROM ATHENS-NICOSIA AGREED LINE, GAVE AMMUNITION TO TURKS ON EVE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. MOST UNCRITICAL MAKARIOS BACKERS - LYSSARIDES, HADJIHERACLEOUS - CALL ON CLERIDES TO RESIGN. OTHER CRITICS
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AVOID THIS EXTREME, BUT CONCLUDE THAT NEW ATHENS-NICOSIA SUMMIT

NEEDED, PERHAPS IN COURSE MAKARIOS TRIP TO JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE LATE THIS MONTH.

A. AFTER TA NEA BLAST, MOST HOSTILE REACTION CAME FROM HADJI-

HERACLEOUS' WEEKLY, ELEFTHEROS LAOS, WHICH DEMANDED CLERIDES RESIGN FOR CREATING "NATIONAL SCANDAL." PAPER'S MAJOR STORY WAS VICIOUS INNUENDO RE CIA "PLOT" TO REMOVE MAKARIOS SO THAT TRACT-ABLE POLITICIAN, WILLING ACCEPT BIZONAL SOLUTION, WOULD REPLACE HIM.

B. APRIL 4 HARDLINER BISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS OF PAPHOS DELIVERED HOMILY IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL WARNING AGAINST "REALISTIC PREACH-INGS" AND CALLING ON GREEKS NOT REPEAT NOT TO SUCCUMB TO "SICK REALISM." CHRYSOSTOMOS SAID THAT DESRATISTS SHOULD BE "REMOVED", CAUTIONED AGAINST HASTE IN SIGNING ANY AGREEMENT WITH TURKS. IN DIRECT REBUTTAL OF CLERIDES, CHRYSOSTOMOS INTONED: "TIME IS NOT REPEAT NOT WORKING AGAINST US WHEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE." CBC CARRIED CHRYSOSTOMOS IN FULL.

C. AKEL LEADER PAPAIOANNOU ISSUED CAUTIOUS STATEMENT SAME DATE CRITICIZING CLERIDES FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WHICH EX-CEED FORMAL OFFER TO TURKS AND AWAITING NEGOTIATION. PAPAIOANNOU DID NOT REPEAT NOT DISAGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF CLERIDES REMARKS, BUT CALLED FOR UNITY IN RANKS AS CONVEYED BY MAKARIOS, NATIONAL COUNCIL.

D. IN INTERVIEW WITH MOSCOW RADIO/TV (REF FBIS TA051401Z) ARCH-BISHOP RENEWED PLEDGE FOR LONG STRUGGLE, REJECTED SOLUTION WHICH SERVES "FOREIGN INTERESTS", CITED FEW BREAKS IN INTERNAL FRONT WHICH "NOT HARMFUL." ALTHOUGH PRO-MAKARIOS PRESS, CBC PLAYED INTERVIEW AS INDIRECT SWIPE AT CLERIDES, WE UNDERSTAND IT GIVEN MARCH 24, FULL WEEK BEFORE CLERIDES' ADDRESS.

E. LYSSARIDES EDEK PARTY, TA NEA KEEPING UP PUSH FOR CLERIDES' RESIGNATION. LYSSARIDES SPOKE APRIL 5 IN LARNACA, CALLING FOR REPLACEMENT OF THOSE PERSONS OUT OF PHASE WITH "EXPECTATIONS OF PEOPLE", INWEIGHING AGAINST REALISM WHICH "LEADS TO EXTINCTION." (LYSSARIDES' HOSTILITY TO CLERIDES RUNS DEEP, HAS LONG HISTORY.)

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F. GENERALLY, PRO-MAKARIOS PRESS QUOTES EVERY POSSIBLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FROM ABROAD AGAINST CLERIDES: E.G., MAVROS, PAPANDREOU STATEMENTS; REPORTED CALL BY CYPRIOT STUDENTS IN ATHENS FOR CLERIDES' REMOVAL: CRITICAL KATHERIMINI ARTICLE (FBIS AT041338Z). WEEKLY PAPER ELEFTHEROTIS CLAIMS GOG HAS ASKED MAKARIOS REPLACE CLERIDES BECAUSE OF TENSIONS PRODUCED BY SPEECH.

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3. ON OTHER SIDE OF LEDGER, CLERIDES HAS GARNERED NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT. MOST RIGHTIST, CENTRIST PAPERS (MAKHI, AGHON, PATRIS) BACK HIM AS DO INFLUENTIAL WEEKLIES (ALLAGHI, ALITHEIA, KYPROS). THEY PRAISE HIS SPEAKING OUT ON CRITICAL ISSUES, DRUB HIS CRITICS' VITRIOLIC SLOGANEERING.

A. INDEPENDENT ALITHEIA SAID IT PREMATURE TO SPEAK OF LONG-TERM STRUGGLE, OR TO EXCLUDE BIZONAL SOLUTION. REPORTED THAT GOG IN FACT OPPOSES RHETORIC OF LONG-TERM STRUGGLE WHICH DEPARTS FROM "COMMON LINE."

B. KYPROS WONDERED WHY MAKARIOS, KARAMANLIS HAVE NOT DIRECTLY CHALLENGED CLERIDES IF HE IN FACT SO FAR OUT OF STEP. REFERRING TO SIMILAR OUTBURST FOLLOWING CLERIDES' ARGO SPEECH LAST FALL, PAPER SUGGESTED CLERIDES BEING USED TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION FOR CHANGE OF COURSE. IT INSINUATES THAT "OTHERS" KNOW HARSH FACTS BUT PREFER LET CLERIDES TELL THEM TO PEOPLE.

C. SAMPSON'S SENSATIONALIST THARROS CLAIMS PM KARAMANLIS TELEPHONED CLERIDES TO ASK HIM NOT REPEAT NOT TO RESIGN. (GREEK EMBASSY DENIES THIS.)

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D. FAR RIGHTISH PRESS -- PATRIS, MESIMVRINI -- GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF CLERIDES, BY DEFENDING HIM AGAINST ENEMIES RATHER THAN ESPOUSING WHAT HE SAID IN SPEECH.

4. CLERIDES, MEANWHILE, SHOWS NO INTENTION OF BACKING DOWN. IN APRIL 5 SPEECH IN PARALIMNI (FAMAGUSTA DISTRICT), HE REPEATED APRIL 1 COMMENTS AND CLAIMED THEY ACCORD ATHENS-NICOSIA LINE. HE ATTACKED CHRYSOSTOMOS FOR USING PULPIT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. IN APPARENT ALLUSION TO ARCHBISHOP, HE DECLARED THAT TIME HAS COME FOR "PRIESTS AND ARCHPRIESTS TO STOP USING CHURCH PULPITS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND TO REMAIN DEDICATED TO CHURCH DUTIES." REPORTEDLY, CLERIDES PLANS TWO MORE SPEECHES THIS WEEK, IN LIMASSOL AND KTIMA (PAPHOS).

5. COMMENT: BALANCE SHEET OF PUBLIC ACTIONS, RE-ACTIONS TO APRIL 1 SPEECH STILL SHOWS DEBIT FOR CLERIDES, AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM. PRIVATELY, MANY INFLUENTIAL GREEK CYPRIOTS AGREE WITH WHAT HE SAID, THOUGH THEY UNWILLING TAKE PUBLIC STAND. MOREOVER, PUBLIC INDICATORS TO DATE, IN PARTICULAR RABIT AND IRRESPONSIBLE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS, ARE IMPERFECT TEST OF PUBLIC OPINION. DDOORE SIGNIFICANT IN THIS CONTEXT IS ABSENCE OF COMMENT BY OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, BY MASS ORGANIZATIONS (PROFESSIONAL, LABOR, FARMERS, FIGHTERS), AND BY BOTH GOC AND GOG. COMMUNIST AKEL CAREFULLY CONFINED ITS CRITIQUE TO CLERIDES' METHOD, NOT REPEAT NOT HIS IDEAS.

6. WHATEVER MOTIVE FOR APRIL 1 SPEECH (AND IT SEEMS FAR MORE

LIKELY THAT CLERIDES STRUCK OUT ON HIS OWN, AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT ACT AS STALKING HORSE FOR ARCHBISHOP, WE CONCLUDE THAT NEITHER MAKARIOS NOR KARAMANLIS UNHAPPY OVER HAVING SUCH "REALISM" BROUGHT INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN. THIS PARTICULARLY SO ON EVE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, PRIOR TO WHICH FAMOUS "COMMON LINE" WILL UNDERGO REAPPRAISAL (OR UNRAVELING).
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